



STATE OF INDIANA
STATE CAPITOL
INDIANAPOLIS 46204

(317) 232-4545
FAX (317) 232-4788

August 5, 2003

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMITTAL

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Proceeding Number 03-167

Dear Secretary Dortch:

SBC recently filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission for authorization to begin providing long distance telecommunications services in Indiana. I support that application and am writing to encourage the FCC to approve it.

As Lieutenant Governor, I am responsible for Indiana's economic development efforts. We have made significant strides in making Indiana a great place to grow a business, and technology is playing a major role in our efforts. In addition to encouraging the growth of high-skill, high-wage jobs at technology companies like SBC, we have also taken steps to help traditional non-technology employers recognize the importance of technology in improving productivity.

I commend the FCC's efforts to open local phone markets to competition. We are experiencing substantial competition for local services in Indiana, and that has resulted in more choice, more innovative telecommunications products, and lower prices for Hoosier consumers. That is why I am urging the FCC to approve SBC's application to provide long distance service. Allowing SBC to become a long distance provider in our state will further extend the benefits of competition in telecommunications services, making Indiana an even better place to do business.

Thank you for accepting my comments as part of your proceeding on SBC's long distance application for Indiana. I trust the FCC will consider the benefit a favorable decision on this matter will have on the state of Indiana.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Kernan
Lieutenant Governor